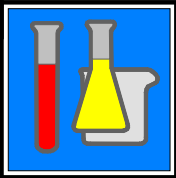




THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 28, No. 4

December, 2011

ISSN 0743-3816

**29th TSOP ANNUAL MEETING
& 64th ICCP Meeting
September 15 – 24, 2012
Beijing, China**

Start Planning Now!



China University of Mining and Technology, Beijing.

Photo from meeting website:

www.iccp-tsop2012.org

Call for Papers - Abstracts due July 15, 2012

**TSOP 29th Annual Meeting
& 64th ICCP Meeting**
September 15-24, 2012
Beijing, China

www.iccp-tsop2012.org

Call for papers: Abstracts due July 15, 2012

Abstract should be submitted by July 15, 2012 via email at tsopiccp2012@gmail.com or daishifeng@gmail.com

If submitting by post, please enclose a copy of your abstract on a CD at the following address:

Prof. Shifeng Dai
State Key Laboratory of Coal Resources & Safe Mining
China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing)
D-11, Xueyuan Road, Haidian District
Beijing 100083
P.R. CHINA

Organizing Committee:

Chairs: Profs. Jianyong Qiao & Suping Peng

Executive Chairs: Profs. Shifeng Dai & Kuili Jin

Co-Chairs: Yaodong Jiang, Yucheng Chai,
Jinxing Dai, Tiegung Wang,
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Yu Liu, Yuzhuang Sun,
Mingquan Zhang, Dahua Li,
Yuegang Tang, Hongmei Wang,
Daiyong Cao, Jian Li.

The Society for Organic Petrology

TSOP is a society for scientists and engineers involved with coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry and related disciplines. The Society organizes an annual technical meeting and field trips; sponsors research projects; provides funding for graduate students; and publishes a web site, a quarterly Newsletter, membership directory, annual meeting program and abstracts, and special publications. Members may elect not to receive the printed Newsletter by marking their dues forms or by contacting the Editor. Members are eligible for discounted subscriptions to the Elsevier journals *International Journal of Coal Geology* and *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*. Subscribe by checking the box on your dues form, or using the form at www.tsop.org. Contact Paul Hackley phackley@usgs.gov if you do not receive a bill or have any other problems with a subscription. For the best prices on subscriptions to AGI's *Geotimes*, see their web site at www.geotimes.org/current

TSOP is a Member Society of AGI and an AAPG Associated Society

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GUIDELINES:

The TSOP Newsletter welcomes contributions from members and non-members alike. Readers are invited to submit items pertinent to TSOP members' fields of study. These might include meeting reports and reviews, book reviews, short technical contributions including those on geologic localities or laboratory methods, as well as creative works such as poems, cartoons and works of fiction. Photos, graphs and other illustrations are welcomed. Low-resolution images are discouraged, as they cannot be reproduced well in print. Articles are preferred in Microsoft Word, RTF or plain text formats.

Contact the Editor:

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Indianapolis, Indiana, 46202, USA
e-mail: rrachelwalker@gmail.com

Address Changes

Please report any changes in address or contact information to: Paul Hackley, TSOP Membership Chair,
phackley@usgs.gov

Members can update their own information by logging into the secure TSOP website:
www.tsop.org/mbrsonly/

The TSOP Newsletter is published quarterly by The Society for Organic Petrology and is distributed to all Society members as a benefit of membership.

Membership in the Society is open to all individuals involved in the fields of organic petrology and organic geochemistry. For more information on membership and Society activities, please see:

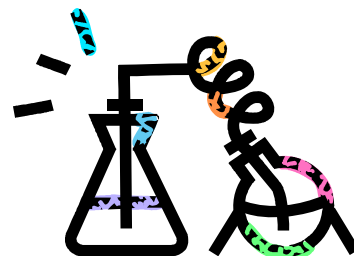
www.tsop.org

For purposes of registration of the TSOP Newsletter, a permanent address is:

The Society for Organic Petrology,
c/o American Geological Institute,
4220 King St., Alexandria,
VA 22302-1520 USA

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Newsletter Submission Deadlines

March Issue: March 10th, 2012
June Issue: June 10th, 2012
September Issue: September 10th, 2012
December Issue: December 10th, 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear TSOP Member,

A few days ago, I received the sad news that our colleague Alan Cook had suddenly died on the 17th of November 2011. I met him for the last time at the ICCP meeting in Porto (Portugal) last September and nothing made us assume this sad denouement. Until his last day he was actively working as demonstrated by the fact that some days prior to his death, Alan informed me about the improvements carried out for the database used in the accreditation programs of the ICCP.

Alan's death is a great loss for the scientific community. We will always remember him by his contributions to the organic petrology, by his wide experience in this field, and his particular personality. He will be missed by all of us.

Our Chinese colleagues are busy preparing the 29th Annual TSOP Meeting that will be held in Beijing from

the 15-24th of September 2012. You can find information about this meeting on the TSOP website and at the link: www.iccp-tsop2012.org. The interesting topics included in this meeting open the door to a successful participation. They are varied and include both conventional and unconventional: Petroleum, Coal, Shale Gas, Shale Oil, Coal Bed Methane, and Gas Hydrates - its geology, evaluation, technology and future. For that I encourage all of you to attend this meeting and I hope to see you there.

It is time to wish Season's Greetings, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to you and your families.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, suggestions, or advice.

Best regards,
Isabel Suárez-Ruiz
TSOP President



SUPPORTING TSOP AND PAYING YOUR SHARE

Hey, don't make us into nags, dues payments are due **BEFORE January 1st** and many of you have not submitted yours yet. Don't wait for a reminder; you can now pay online with or without a login.

Many members are now choosing to pay their dues online at www.tsop.org/dues. The form is easy to follow and allows various payment methods including checks (mostly for US members), money orders, bank transfers and credit/debit/bank card. PayPal provides a secure site for entering your card information and there is NO need to have or create an account. PayPal is the largest online payment provider and it stakes its reputation on proving a safe, secure and hassle free means of paying online. They may suggest that you create an account but you can easily just say no thanks. My complaint would be that they are too heavy with their advertisements enticing you shop online and pay via PayPal but most of this can be easily ignored.

TSOP funding is dependent upon dues payments of its members, so please check to ensure you are up to date. If you are not sure what your dues status is, please check online at www.tsop.org/mbrsonly contact the Treasurer at mavery@nrca.gc.ca. Don't forget, you can escape the hassle of yearly dues payments and save money and time by taking advantage of our popular **5 years for the price of 4** discount.

Since setting up our system we have received close to one hundred dues payments through PayPal without any major complaints. Also, the majority of registrations for last year's Annual Meeting were processed via PayPal and

more than \$30,000 without a major hitch.

Thanks for supporting TSOP and its work in promoting organic petrology and related sciences.

Mike Avery
TSOP Treasurer



WEB SITE NEWS

Bibliographic references are among the most-used features on the TSOP web site. Long-time compiler Brian Cardott has just provided the 2011 updates, including two new topics, coal chemistry and coal geology, bringing the total to 33 topics. The updated files will be available on the web site soon, possibly by the time this newsletter is released. Additional references are invited; please send the citations to webmaster@tsop.org.

The Internet Committee would also welcome volunteers to investigate software such as Zotero for an actual database to organize the literature references.

The 2012 Beijing meeting committee has produced a full web site for their meeting. It is linked from the TSOP home page and the Meetings menu. Please see it for information on the call

for papers, meeting schedule, registration, field trips, and more.

Three sets of photographs from the 2011 Halifax meeting are available as image galleries through the "Meetings" pull-down menu. Additional photographs (up to 14 per set) with captions and photographer credits are invited. Themes could be other TSOP meetings or other aspects of TSOP's areas of scientific interest.

Additionally, former TSOP Secretary Paul Hackley has provided a summary of questions and answers from the "Ask an Organic Petrologist" feature on the web site. These will be added to that web page soon.

David Glick
Internet Committee Chair



THE JOHN CASTAÑO HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD, 2012

Call for Nominations

Deadline: May 31, 2012

Members are invited to nominate candidates for the 2011 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award, the highest honour that TSOP bestows. The successful candidate will receive a lifelong membership in the Society.



John R. Castaño

This award is named for John R. Castaño, a founding member of TSOP, who was inaugural Vice-President and President of TSOP in 1986. Based largely in Houston during the latter part of a long and distinguished career in source rock geochemistry and petrology with Shell Oil, he was extremely active in TSOP and received the Honorary Member Award in 1985, in recognition of his outstanding professional achievements in research, training young scientists and promoting the fostering the goals of the society. After his death in 1997, the Honorary Member Award was renamed the **John Castaño Honorary Membership Award** in his honor.

This Award is open to any geoscientist who has contributed to advancement of Organic Petrology and Geochemistry by distinguishing themselves in one or more of the following categories: research, teaching or outstanding contributions to the Society. Members considering nominating a candidate

should consult the TSOP website for specifics regarding qualifications. Nominees can be members, former members or non-members of TSOP.

Nominees must be sponsored by a TSOP member by submitting a letter of nomination stating why the candidate should be considered for the award; the nomination letter must be accompanied by:

- a) *Nominee's resume or curriculum Vitae*; and
- b) Supporting *letters of recommendation* from other colleagues or scientists.

Emphasis should be placed on the significance of the nominee's work.

Nominations and all supporting documents should be submitted to the Chair of the Honorary Member Award Committee:

Dr. Judith Potter
JP PetroGraphics
90 Patterson Close SW
Calgary Alberta, Canada T3H 3K2
E-mail: jpp@sitogeo.com

Nominations must be received on or before May 31, 2012.

They will be reviewed by the Castaño Award Committee and the results announced at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Beijing, China.

The Selection Committee will review the value of the nominee's contributions to research, service and education, based on the following criteria:

- Research contributions include work that demonstrates a high degree of originality and serves to advance the science of organic petrology or related disciplines. Nominees must possess a sustained international record of professional publication and achievement.
- Nominees recommended for service must demonstrate significant contributions to TSOP in a leadership role. Their service must have enabled the Society to stimulate interest and promote innovative research in coal geology. Contributions include educational activities, administrative duties, or the development of the Society.
- Nominees recommended for education must demonstrate a high degree of dedication and significant impact as a teacher of organic petrology or related disciplines.

Dr. Judith Potter

TSOP Vice-President, 2011-13
Chair of the Honorary Member Selection Committee

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS TO TEST ASTM D7708

A round robin exercise is being launched to develop a precision statement (repeatability and reproducibility values) for the new ASTM test method D7708 for dispersed vitrinite reflectance measurement.

Participants will measure vitrinite reflectance for six different shale samples containing Type I-II-III kerogens, from geologic ages ranging from Devonian to Paleogene, and thermal maturities ranging from immature to overmature.

Samples will be distributed as crushed rock.

Analysts will measure samples in duplicate, following D7708. Detailed exercise protocols will be distributed with the samples and a hardcopy of D7708.

Please contact Paul Hackley at phackley@usgs.gov to participate.



TSOP NEW MEMBERS!



Paula Natasha Marner

Paula Marner earned her BSc with Honors in Geology in 1997 from the University of Regina in Saskatchewan, Canada. She has fourteen years of experience working as an exploration and development geologist in the oil and gas industry in the Appalachian, Williston, Maritimes and Western Canadian Sedimentary Basins of North America, in addition to the Eastern Venezuela Basin offshore Trinidad.

Currently, she is with Corridor Resources in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where her research interests include appraisal of unconventional resources in both New Brunswick and Quebec.



Rick Harding – welcome back!

Rick earned his BA in geology from Lafayette College in 1970 and pursued studies in palynology at the University of Texas in Dallas. Since 1976 he has held several positions in industry, working on thermal maturity studies, geochemistry and palynology in oil and gas exploration. He is presently with Applied Petroleum Technology (UK) Ltd. in North Wales. Rick was a founding member of TSOP in 1984, for which he was presented a Founder Award at the 1994 TSOP Annual Meeting.



Bruce Anderson

Bruce completed undergraduate studies at Macquarie University in 1989, and received his BSc (Hons) in petroleum geology and geophysics from Adelaide University in 1990. Since that time he has been working in industry on coal exploration and coalbed methane development.



22ND GOLDSCHMIDT CONFERENCE

The 22nd V.M. Goldschmidt conference is jointly sponsored by The Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry. The conference will be held 24-29 June 2012 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The call for abstracts can be found at:

www.vmgoldschmidt.org/2012/abstracts.htm

In particular, we wish to call your attention to **Session 9b. Geochemistry of petroleum, coal combustion and gasification products.**

Co-conveners: James C. Hower (University of Kentucky), Hamed Sanei (Geological Survey of Canada, Calgary), Owen Duckworth (NC State University), Dean Hesterberg (NC State University), Mark Chappell (Army Corps of Engineers R&D Center)

Coal combustion (and gasification) products (CCPs) have been at the forefront of coal combustion environmental issues. The December 2008 TVA ash spill brought the US power-generation industry's ash disposal practices to national attention, prompting US EPA to discuss more restrictive disposal regulations. The growing importance of beneficial re-use of CCPs in a variety of settings, such as the use of fly ash as a Portland cement replacement and the use of flue-gas-desulfurization (FGD) gypsum in wallboard might be offset by hazardous waste restrictions.

We welcome studies that focus on beneficial re-use of CCPs. We also welcome laboratory or field contributions that discuss the fate, transport, chemistry, and reactivity associated with releases of fossil fuels and their combustion by-products in the natural environment, including hydrocarbons, coal, fly ash, and other combustion products.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Check www.tsop.org/cal.htm for more info!



2012

April:

22-25th, 2012: AAPG 2012 Annual Convention & Exhibition, Long Beach, California, USA.
www.aapg.org/longbeach2012/

June:

17-22nd, 2012: Carbon 2012, The Annual World Conference on Carbon, Krakow, Poland.
www.carbon2012.pl/
Abstract deadline: December 31st, 2011.

24-29th, 2012: 22nd Goldschmidt Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Session 9b: Geochemistry of petroleum, coal combustion and gasification products.
www.vmgoldschmidt.org/2012/abstracts.htm

July:

15-22nd, 2012: 9th International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry, Aveiro, Portugal.
<http://9iseg.web.ua.pt/>

21-25th, 2012: 45th Annual Meeting of The Palynological Society, AASP. University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky. See flyer page 15. www.palynology.org

September:

15-24th, 2012: ICCP and TSOP meetings, Beijing, China. www.iccp-tsop2012.org/
ICCP meeting 15-19th Sept. (registration starts 14th Sept); Yunnan field trip 20-22nd Sept; TSOP meeting 23-24th Sept. These three segments have separate registration fees so that participants may choose to go to one or both meetings and the field trip to suit their own professional and scientific requirements. TSOP registration fees are discounted before 15 July, 2012. Abstract deadline: 15 July 2012.

October:

15-18th, 2012: International Pittsburgh Coal Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.
www.engineering.pitt.edu/pcc/
Focus on environmental emissions issues and technologies surrounding the continued use of coal.

November:

4-7th, 2012: Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA: Geosciences: Investing in the Future.
www.geosociety.org/meetings/2012/



PHOTO PAGE



**Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada
Photo by Dave Glick**